

WI-392
Charity M. P. Church
Salisbury vicinity
Public worship

1897

Historically known as the "Jersey Road," this north-south rural road was once a principal route between the west side of Salisbury and the small mill communities located along the feeder creeks of the Wicomico River. The feeder stream from the northwest, known as Little Burnt Branch, sponsored a saw mill operation during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. A small rural community known as Charity developed in an around this saw mill as well as the rural crossroads defined by what is known currently as Naylor Mill and Jersey roads.

One nineteenth-century remnant of this crossroads community is the Charity Methodist Protestant Church, a single-story, gable-front frame building dated to 1897 by a marble cornerstone. The gable end entrance is accented with a gable-roofed hood supported on large triangular brackets, and to each side are two-over-two colored glass windows. The small rural Methodist church is joined on the shaded lot by a separate church hall and a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery.

The Charity M. P. Church is similar to many small rural chapels erected in crossroads communities across the lower Eastern Shore. This church, with its cemetery, is one of the last reminders of this small community that developed around Little Burnt Branch and the intersection of Jersey and Naylor Mill roads.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Charity M. P. Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-392

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
Religion

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Church
Cemetery

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-392

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Charity M. P. Church

and/or common Charity Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Jersey Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury

☒ vicinity of

congressional district First

state Maryland

county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category

☐ district

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

Ownership

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process

☐ being considered

☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied

☐ unoccupied

☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

☐ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☐ private residence

☒ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Charity Methodist Church c/o Rev. Dean Perdue

street & number Jersey Road

telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury

state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court

liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse

folio

city, town Salisbury

state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-392

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Charity Methodist Church, historically known as Charity M. P. Church, stands north of the intersection of Naylor Mill Road and Jersey Road north of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story gable-front, frame church faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1897, the single-story, three-bay by three-bay rectangular frame church is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Standing northeast of the church is a single-story rectangular frame church hall. A nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery is located on the north side of the two buildings.

The west (main) facade of the church is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center double-door entrance flanked by two-over-two colored glass windows. The entrance is sheltered by a gable roof hood supported on triangular brackets that are sheathed with aluminum. Piercing the gable end above the entrance is a two-over-two sash window. The eaves of the roof are extended and sheathed with aluminum. Fixed under the eave at each corner is a bracket decoration. A marble datestone, inscribed "Charity M. P. Church, 1897" is fixed in the southwest corner of the brick foundation. Recently added to the front of the building is a brick and concrete handicapped ramp.

The north and south side elevations are essentially alike. Three two-over-two colored glass sash windows define each wall. The north wall is also defined by an exterior brick stove chimney that rises between the first and second bays.

The east (rear) gable end is marked by a shed roofed apse that is pierced by a round colored glass window in its east side and narrow colored glass windows in the north and south side walls.

The interior of the church was not seen.

The church hall, probably dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, is a single-story rectangular gable roofed structure with an entrance in the west wall. The adjacent cemetery is defined by nineteenth and twentieth century grave markers.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-392

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

| Specific dates | 1897 | Builder/Architect |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: | <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | |
| and/or | | |
| Applicable Exception: | <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | |
| Level of Significance: | <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historically known as the "Jersey Road," this north-south rural road was once a principal route between the west side of Salisbury and the small mill communities located along the feeder creeks of the Wicomico River. The feeder stream from the northwest, known as Little Burnt Branch, sponsored a saw mill operation during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century.¹ A small rural community known as Charity developed in an around this saw mill as well as the rural crossroads defined by what is known currently as Naylor Mill and Jersey roads.

One nineteenth-century remnant of this crossroads community is the Charity Methodist Protestant Church, a single-story, gable-front frame building dated to 1897 by a marble cornerstone. The gable end entrance is accented with a gable-roofed hood supported on large triangular brackets, and to each side are two-over-two colored glass windows. The small rural Methodist church is joined on the shaded lot by a separate church hall and a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery.

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¹ John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission, p. 20.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-392

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 4/27/99

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~Shaw House~~
~~21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

Leonard Pond

WI-392
Charity M. P. Church

Delmar, Maryland-Delaware Quadrangle

SHR (MD-50)

P A R S O N S

60

I S B U R Y

N O 9

Comico

Johnson Pond

RADIO TOWER

Brewington

Branch

Middle Neck

Salisbury Airport

Branch

Middle

Neck

Peggy

B







